

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 09745 101230Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 DODE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSC-05 EURE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1320
INFO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 09745

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, BE
SUBJECT: PRM-10 REVIEW AS IT REGARDS U.S.-NATO STRATEGY

REF: STATE 186657

1. NO BELGIAN OFFICIALS HAVE RAISED THE SUBJECT OF U.S.-NATO STRATEGY ON THE BASIS OF THE EVANS AND NOVAK ARTICLES WITH US. BELGIAN MEDIA REACTION HAS BEEN GENERALLY LIMITED TO REPORTING THE ISSUE WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENTARY. PROMPT USG REBUTTALS IN CONJUNCTION WITH HOLIDAY ABSENCES IN BELGIUM HAVE SERVED TO KEEP THE TREATMENT OF THIS ISSUE IN FAIRLY LOW-KEY.

2. BELGIUM RECENTLY HAD A SIMILAR CASE OF ITS OWN IN THE CLOSE AFFAIR (A BELGIAN GENERAL WHO WROTE A BOOK PREDICTING SOVIET FORCES COULD REACH THE RHINE IN 48 HOURS). BELGIAN OFFICIALS DID NOT RAISE THE CLOSE THESIS WITH US EITHER.

3. THE PROBLEM CAUSED BY EVANS AND NOVAK ARTICLES IS PROBABLY NOT SIGNIFICANT FOR BELGIAN POLICY-LEVEL OFFICIALS. THE PROBLEM THAT SUCH ALLEGATIONS CAUSE IN BELGIUM IS MORE THAT THEY CAN LEAD TO A CERTAIN DEGREE OF UNCONSCIOUS EROSION IN BELGIAN
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PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN USG INTENTIONS. PUBLIC DENIALS BY THE USG OF THE SUBSTANCE OF SUCH REPORTS, NO MATTER HOW PROMPT, HOW WELL REPORTED LOCALLY OR FROM WHAT USG LEVEL, DO NOT FULLY ERADICATE THE INITIAL ALLEGATION. THERE ARE CERTAINLY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN BELGIUM, WHO EITHER THROUGH MALEVOLENCE TO THE U.S. OR OTHERWISE, WILL USE THE EVANS AND NOVAK STATEMENTS IN THE FUTURE FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES.

4. TURNING TO HOW BEST TO ADDRESS THIS FORM OF ALLEGATION, WE
WOULD SUGGEST THAT IF THE USG CONTINUES TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO
CONSULT WITH OUR NATO ALLIES ON ALL SUBJECTS OF SIGNIFICANT CONCERN
TO THEM AND IN TIME FOR THEIR VIEWS TO BE CONSIDERED BEFORE U.S.
POLICY IS DECIDED UPON, THE CLIMATE OF COOPERATION AND
CONFIDENCE ESTABLISHED WILL SERVE TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF THE
EVANS AND NOVAK ALLEGATIONS AND ANY FUTURE SIMILAR CHARGES.
CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Subject: PRM-10 REVIEW AS IT REGARDS U.S.-NATO STRATEGY
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, BE, US
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